IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Original) An apparatus for exclusively binding data to a data processing system comprising:

a data storage device in which said data is stored;

a battery that provides a binding signal independent of system power supplied to said data processing system; and

a binding latch that receives said binding signal, wherein said binding latch is set upon removal of said binding signal.

2.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said binding latch is a non-volatile storage device.

3.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data storage device is contained within a detachable medium within said data processing system.

4.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said detachable medium is a circuit card or a module detachably mounted onto a system planar.

5.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a charge pump within said detachable medium, wherein said charge pump supplies power to set said binding latch in response to removal of said detachable medium from said system planar.

6.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a signal line connecting said binding signal from said battery to a sensing input on said detachable medium.

Claims 7-8. (Cancelled)

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:

circuit means within said detachable medium for detecting the state of said binding latch; and

circuit means within said detachable module, which, in response to detecting that said binding latch is set, removes said data from said data storage device.

10.   (Original)   A method for exclusively binding data to a data processing system comprising:

detachably coupling a data storage device that stores said data within said data processing system;

providing a battery binding signal that is independent of system power supplied to said data processing system; and

in response to removal of said battery binding signal, setting a non-volatile binding latch that indicates the removal of said battery binding signal.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said data storage device is contained within a detachable medium within said data processing system.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said detachable medium is a circuit card or a module, said method further comprising detachably mounting said detachable medium onto a system planar.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said detachable medium includes a charge pump, said method further comprising supplying power from said charge pump to set said binding latch in response to removal of said detachable medium from said system planar.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising connecting said binding signal from said battery to a sensing input on said detachable medium.

Claims 15-16. (Cancelled)

U.S. Application No. 10/015,814   Response A – Page 3   Attorney Docket Number RPS920010100US1

17.   (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

    detecting the state of said binding latch; and

    in response to detecting that said binding latch is set, removing said data from said data
storage device.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said detecting the state of said binding latch
is processed by mounting said detachable medium into said data processing system or another
data processing system.

Claim 19. (Cancelled)

20.   (New) An apparatus for exclusively binding data to a data processing system planar
comprising:

    a data storage device contained within a detachable medium that is mounted onto the data
processing system planar;

    a battery that provides a binding signal independent of system power supplied to operate
said data processing system;

    a binding latch contained within the detachable medium that receives said binding signal,
wherein said binding latch is set upon removal of said binding signal; and

    a processing unit communicatively coupled to said binding latch, wherein responsive to
detecting a binding latch set state, said processing unit removes data from said data storage
device.

21.   (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said binding latch is a non-volatile storage
device.

22.   (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said detachable medium is a circuit card or a
module detachably mounted onto the data processing system planar.

23.   (New)   The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a charge pump within said detachable medium, wherein said charge pump supplies power to set said binding latch following removal of said detachable medium from said system planar.

24.   (New)   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said battery is mounted external to said detachable medium, said apparatus further comprising a signal line connecting said binding signal from said battery to a sensing input on said detachable medium.

25.   (New)   A method for exclusively binding data to a data processing system planar comprising:

mounting a detachable medium onto a data processing system planar, wherein the detachable medium includes a non-volatile data storage device;

applying a persistent binding signal from the system planar to a sensing input of the detachable medium, wherein the persistent binding signal is independent of system power supplied to operate the data processing system; and

responsive to interruption of said binding signal at the sensing input, switching the set state of a binding latch that is coupled to the sensing input of the detachable medium.

26.   (New)   The method of claim 25, wherein the detachable medium includes a charge pump, said method further comprising supplying power from the charge pump to set the binding latch following removal of the detachable medium from the system planar.

27.   (New)   The method of claim 20, further comprising:
sensing the state of the binding latch; and
in response to detecting a binding latch set state, removing data from the non-volatile data storage device.

28.   (New)   The method of claim 27, wherein said detecting a binding latch set state is processed responsive to mounting the detachable medium onto the data processing system planar or another data processing system subsequent to removing the detachable medium from the data processing system planar.